



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EL PASO CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION OFFICER ARRESTED

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that in El Paso this morning, federal authorities arrested Customs and Border Protection officer Margarita Crispin while on duty at the Paso del Norte Port of Entry.

Crispin is charged by federal grand jury indictment with one count of conspiracy to import a controlled substance. Upon conviction, she faces between ten years and life in federal prison. According to the indictment, from June 2003 until July 2007, Crispin conspired with others to import more than 1,000 kilograms of marijuana into the United States. Authorities allege that Crispin knowingly allowed loads of marijuana to pass through her Port Of Entry lanes unchecked.

Crispin remains in federal custody. Her Initial Appearance is expected to occur Monday afternoon in U.S. Magistrate Court in El Paso.

This case is being investigated by the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Drug Enforcement Administration. Assistant United States Attorney Juanita Fielden is prosecuting this case on behalf of the Government.

A indictment is a formal accusation of criminal conduct, not evidence of guilt. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until convicted through due process of law.

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